

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 CU-02 EUR-12 OMB-01 /087 W
-----282256Z 027387 /73

R 280940Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7858
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, KU, PFOR
SUBJECT: KHALID AL-HASSAN ON PALESTIAN "HIBERNATION" AND LACK
OF ARAB SUPPORT

1. KHALID AL-HASSAN, PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER WHO
USUALLY STAYS IN KUWAIT, APPEARED AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM
ON STUDENT-SPONSORED PANEL APRIL 26, ALONG WITH LOCAL PROFESSORS.
DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF PAST AND FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THE
PANEL COVERED WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES DURING SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE
AUDIENCE COMPOSED LARGELY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BUT INCLUDING AN
EMBASSY FSL. THE EVENT WAS WIDELY COVERED ON THE LOCAL NEWS PAGES
OF KUWAITI DAILIES, AND IT ASSUMED THE FORM OF A DEBATE BETWEEN A FEW
YOUNG PALESTINIAN MILITANTS (MARXISTS AND OTHER TUB THUMPERS) IN THE
AUDIENCE AND KHALIK AL-HASSAN. THE AUDIENCE OF SOME 250 LOOKED
ON CALMLY. RHETORIC FLEW AROUND THE THEME OF AL-HASSAN'S PRELIMINARY
REMARKS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION IS UNDER-
GOING "FREEZE", ANALOGOUS TO BEAR UNDERGOING WINTER
HIBERNATION. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE REVOLUTION WOULD
AWAKEN AT SOME FUTURE DATE, BUT THAT FOR NOW THINGS ARE QUIET BECAUSE
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A DEFENSIVE POSTURE IS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE REVOLUTION.

2. REGARDING MIDDLE EAST ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AL-HASSAN CHARGED
THAT ALL OF THEM WANT A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, THOUGH SOME DENY
THIS PUBLICLY, AND NONE OF THEM ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO THE PALESTINIAN
CAUSE--THEY SUPPORT PALESTINIAN EFFORTS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

AL-HASSAN ADDED THAT AN OFFICIAL OF AN UNNAMED ARAB STATE HAD TOLD HIM THAT "WE SUPPORT YOU (THE PALESTINIANS) BECAUSE WE ARE AFRAID OF YOU." AS BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET GOALS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AL-HASSAN PROFESSED TO SEE NO DISTINCTION, ASSERTING THAT SUPER-POWER TACTICS AND TIMING ARE DIFFERENT BUT LEAD TO THE SAME PLACE, THE IMPOSITION OF AN UNJUST SETTLEMENT ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE OF SOME INTEREST AS AN EXPOSITION OF CURRENT DISAGREEMENTS WITH IN PALESTIAN MOVEMENT IN KUWAIT, THE MEETING HAS OTHER SIGNIFICANCE, IT SEEMS TO US. IT IS THE SECOND PUBLIC POLITICAL DEBATE HELD THIS MONTH, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE KUWAIT STUDENTS UNION CULTURAL COMMITTEE, THE FIRST HAVING BEEN A DISCUSSION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE GULF, INVOLVING DISSIDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER ABDALLAH AL-NIBARI AND KUWAIT UNIVERSITY SOCIOLOGY DEPT HEAD MUHAMMAD AL-RUMAYHI. WHILE PALESTINIAN MATTERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HELD TO BE FULLY APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AT PLO OFFICE HERE, NEITHER THEY NOR THE FRAGILE CONDITION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE GULF HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS FAIR MATERIAL FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN THE MONTHS SINCE THE ASSEMBLY WAS DISSOLVED, TIGHTER PRESS CONTROLS WERE INSTITUTED, AND VARIOUS PUBLIC CLUBS WERE REFORMED LAST FALL. IN THESE PUBLIC MEETINGS WE ARE PROBABLY SEEING A CAUTIOUS, GRADUAL RESUMPTION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN KUWAIT, OCCURRING COINCIDENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN FOCUS ON HOW BEST TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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